

# Canna indica

## COMMON NAME

Indian shot

## FAMILY

Cannaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Canna indica* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## NVS CODE

CANIND

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Damp spots, wetlands, low-growing habitats, disturbed shrubland, streamsides, riversystems.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, leafy perennial herb to 1-2 m tall. Roots rhizomatous. Stem sturdy, unbranched, hairless. Leaves on the stem, to 45 x 15 cm, oblong, with prominent midrib, sheath below. Flowers often paired, 5-6 cm long, pinkish-red and reddish-yellow, with red spots. Seed capsule round, to 2 cm, with black seeds.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Hybrid cannas (*Canna x generalis*) have a range of forms. a. Foliage green with large yellow flowers. b. Foliage green with large showy red flowers. c. Foliage purplish with large orange flowers. *Hedychium* sp. (ginger) are also similar lack the strongly ribbed leaves and have multiple flowers in each inflorescence.

## FLOWERING

November, December, February, March, April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

## FRUITING

January, March, April, May

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Usually spreads vegetatively rather than by seed; seeds globose, black (Ewan Cameron 1996). Spread by dumped vegetation, soil movement, occasionally water movement.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1870

## ORIGIN

West Indies, Central and South America.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

## TOLERANCES

Tolerates hot to moderate temperature, damage and grazing, wind, salt, damp to mod dry. Intolerant of shade, heavy frost.



## ETYMOLOGY

**canna:** Term is derived from a Greek name for a type of reed.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Gardner, R. 1990. Canna. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 45: 1-4.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/canna-indica/>